

Final Minutes of the  
San Joaquin River Management Program  
Action Team Meeting  
May 18, 2000

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
3800 Cornucopia Way, Tuolumne Building  
Modesto, California

### **Introductions and Approval of Minutes**

The San Joaquin River Management Program Action Team met on May 18, 2000 in the office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Modesto, California. Dale Hoffman-Floerke began the meeting by asking for any comments on the Draft Minutes for the March 21, 2000 meeting, one minor correction was made. Hoffman-Floerke stepped down as the Action Team Chairperson and Paula Landis, a long time member of SJRMP, will replace her.

### **Watershed Workshop**

Kevin Faulkenberry updated the group with the planning details for the upcoming watershed workshop, "Working at a Watershed Level," to be held January 22-26, 2001 at the CSU Fresno campus. Currently, the primary focus is to complete the selection of presenters, case studies, and secure course sponsors. It was announced that the submittal of an EQIP grant application was once again denied for funding. The Bureau and DWR committed funds totaling \$35,000 to support the workshop. A Calfed grant proposal of \$20,000 was submitted but the announcement of awards will come later in the year, possibly October. Additional funding sources were discussed to acquire the remainder of the balance. No word yet on the final total from the Turlock workshop, although early totals were reported to be near \$60,000.

### **SJRMP Recommendation Letter to the ACOE/DWR Comprehensive Study**

Dale Hoffman-Floerke provided an update on the SJRMP endorsement letter submitted to the Advisory Council on May 12, 2000. In summary, the Action Team prepared a letter of support for a sand removal project on the San Joaquin River to be considered by the COE/DWR Comprehensive Study as one of the early implementation projects. The Advisory Council considered the letter and some concerns were expressed about the lack of process and procedure for a letter of support. Tim Ramirez, acting Chair, suggested waiting until a process could be developed before providing the letter of support. Ramirez requested that the Action Team develop a process for "SJRMP Review of Letters of Support" at the upcoming Action Team meeting on May 18, 2000. The letter of endorsement would then be considered for review based on the new guidelines.

Dale Hoffman-Floerke provided a handout from “Advisory Council and Riparian Habitat Committee” that outlined a process for SB 1086 review of CALFED Proposals. The handout was reviewed to develop the following:

#### Process for approval of SJRMP letters of support

1. The applicant is to present and submit a summary of the project or proposal to the SJRMP Action Team at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the deadline for a letter of support does not coincide with a regularly scheduled Action Team meeting, Action Team members can discuss and evaluate the proposal via conference call, e-mail or schedule an emergency meeting.
2. Upon receipt, the project or proposal will be reviewed for consistency with the San Joaquin River Management Plan. Projects or proposals found to be consistent with the Plan will be moved forward with a draft letter of support and a recommendation to the Advisory Council for action.
3. An Action Item notice must be placed on the Advisory Council agenda accompanied by the draft letter of support.
4. The Advisory Council will determine if they support the project or proposal. The Advisory Council will approve or disapprove the letter as presented or modify it for signature by the Advisory Council Chair

#### **Mission/Goal Statement**

Hoffman-Floerke informed the group that a small committee of Action Team members will meet again to complete a plan of action for a workshop to be held sometime this summer. She also encouraged interested individuals to attend the workshop committee meetings to refocus the SJRMP goals. The next meeting is planned for in July.

#### **Integrated Storage Investigations**

Ted Frink gave a presentation and provided a handout on the “Fish Passage Improvement Program.” This newly established program is part of the Integrated Storage Investigations and CALFED. A three-phase project was developed to accomplish the objectives established for improving fish passage in the Central Valley and a portion of the Bay Area. Phase I is currently in progress to provide: an inventory of structures and upstream habitat, ecological benefits, information on water use issues, and prioritize potential projects. Feasibility studies and environmental documentation are to be evaluated during Phase II to develop

projects. Project implementation is planned for selected projects in Phase III. A project time-line of 6-7 years is anticipated and possibly extending beyond 10 years depending on the project implementation time-line.

Next Action Team Meeting: July 26, 2000 at 1 p.m.

Action Team Meeting  
Of  
May 18, 2000

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